

to all believers in God; that the lamentable looseness with which many persons hold their creed - as a form of words which has no bearing on practical life, is due to the fact that, as children, they received no direct, earnest, reasonable teaching on the fundamental truths of religion. No definite conclusion was come to, but even if the promoters of the scheme were exceedingly anxious to keep this clause, because, c'est le premier pas qui count; if the religious idea were dropped, it would be impossible to re-introduce it. & this would become, like various others, a society for promoting secular education. If one goes it seemed that in this regard the modern high school compared badly with the ancient grammar school, because the former does not rest on an avowedly religious basis, however much individual heads may do for the best interests of their pupils. Besides, to speak not scientifically, but popularly, & (?) practically, we are fourfold beings, with a physical, a moral, an intellectual & a religious side, & each of these sides is part, & what you like, is to form a complete being. But it is subject to laws & decays & growth accordingly as it is fitly nourished & duly exercised or allowed to lie idle & cramped. Nobody denies that this is true of the physical part of us; people are beginning to see that the mind must undergo labour & be nourished with ideas if it is to live again & that the moral nurture of precept & example & constant exercise in good works, are necessary if the good life is to flourish; but we are slow to see that the spiritual life subsists under the same conditions, & is by no means self-sufficient & independent of training from without, or of effort within. But this is a digression. If then, each part of our composite nature flourishes or decays under like conditions, we cannot have a complete scheme of education which does not give equal consideration to the laws of mental effort & thus determine the well-being of each of the four manifestations, or parts, or sides, of a human being. But this is a digression -

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a society, with ~~many~~ ^{several} branches & a center: not this only because
want to make it clear at the outset that we do not propose a local society
with only local objects but that we are waiting to unite with other branches
— to be affiliated with a center when that arise. Union is strength,
— we know that that we may come to be a powerful society
some day, & the great things in the cause of education. At any
rate, a large hope will draw us here, in the meantime we
can sweep diligently before us our door, work our way
branch with region. A great vigorous working party manifest
it was suggested that a secretary should manage the affairs
of the society, that there should be no committee. Truly
committees are weariness to the flesh, but it is not certain
we can do without one.

After all these preliminary details had been gone through, one
fine was cited in the condition of Little Peterkin in the room.
we considered 'what-twas all about.' ~~that is~~ ^{what} ~~is~~ ^{is} what
practical work our society should accomplish. Bearing
in mind that our object is to bring common thought
to the level reached by scientific research on the subject
of education, the question is, how to give parents' grip of the
common elements which ^{can} help to open physiological &
psychological truths of ^{to this end} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~more~~ ^{more} have meetings apparently
drawing-room, or ~~other~~ ^{other} according to our members, say 10 min
each meeting, in the winter session. We must have a definite
programme for the year's work, 4 subjects for discussion, begin with
parts of education, physical, mental, moral & religious, can be taken
up consecutively, so much the better, for reasons already shown.
Each of these divisions affords an infinite number of topics —
more than the P.M. may hope to cover in a career of many years.
For by way of example — diet in relation to brain work — how

to deal with an unorthodox child - first ideas of ppt. 4. -
A paper should be read on the topic under discussion, or, in
default of an original paper, the views of some competent
author or authors. When an original paper is read, it would
be a relief if the reader should bring under the notice of the
audience an able treatment of the subject in the works of
one or two authors. A discussion of what has been read
should follow, because there are topics in which every one
present will have a vivid personal interest, upon which
every thinking person must at some time have thought.
It is to be expected that such discussions should be
both lively & profitable, with or without a little preconcerted
arrangement.

It would be a happy sign for the irregularity of the P.M. if
parents would send in queries - with or without a ^{signature} - to the
secretary. Dealing with practical difficulties ~~which have~~
as they arise up - How would you deal with a freely, or would
child? Is a child with a ~~too~~ active brain? How would you
treat ~~a child found not in an act of~~ ^{signifying children over playful?} ~~deliberate disobedience?~~ &c.
The secretary might pass on ^{important?} one such query to a capable
member, whose answer at the meeting would open the way
for general discussion.

Under meetings of the
As we have a programme of abundant work for the A
Section of the Society. That we must have an A & S
Section is self-evident. For papers & discussions that
should be useful to educated parents, surrounded by a
good deal of domestic refinement, would pass over the heads
of young people new to this kind of thought ^{parent}
in homes of ~~very~~ different order. One or two living-
room meetings for mothers, for the discussion of ^{mother} ~~questions~~
that fall especially within their province, would complete
a ~~most~~ valuable winter's work.

the conditions of membership next felt under discussion. Parents
 & mothers alone should be eligible as members. This was an
 improvement on the original idea which included mothers only.
 But an educational enthusiast, himself a father, exclaimed
 against this: fathers, he said, must share with mothers the
 responsibilities of planning up children, & what is to be given to the
 one should help the other also. Certainly the society must
 gain in vigour & power by the inclusion of fathers. & the
 suggestion was adopted joyfully. & so far as we have felt every one
 says fathers appear responsive. The most-desirable members
 are not parents who have borne the burden & heat of the day
 & have shaped out a career for themselves, ~~which they are not~~
~~likely to alter~~ but young earnest-minded people, full of purpose
 for their children. These are, no doubt, the very persons who
 would bring up their children well without any aid from
 without, but it is a case of, unto him that hath shall be given,
 & in an attempt to educate public opinion, one of the
 great objects of the society. It is a great thing to have the best
 of you best. The practical wisdom of experienced parents, if any
 be minded to join us, should be of great service to the rest.
 A very interesting & important part of the society ~~is~~ should
 be the parents of the artisan class. Here, again, we want
 not the comfortable classes who have time to attend
 mothers' meetings because their children are out of hand,
 but young people with their children about them, of intelligence
 enough from their school education to profit by some insight
 into the principles of education. Every district visitor will
 know there is your such young couples, & perhaps there is
 no better way of getting at them than through the district
 visitors by whom some attempt is made to cover the whole
 population. But it is not the helpless wretched ones we
 want; we don't propose to form a charitable association, &
 but is help
 on another.

[illegible]